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RURAL DISTRICT OF HAILSHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955

L. A. COLLINS, M.B., B.CH., D.P.M., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
HAILSHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
1955

To the Chairman and Members of the Hailsham Rural District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955.

The general state of the public health of this district has been satisfactory throughout the year, and this can be shown by a study of the statistics embodied in this report. Although the incidence of infectious diseases is low, there continues to be scope for epidemiological field work in the prevention of disease.

Environmentally this is a rural district, and it is not possible for the remoter parts of the district to be given immediately all the amenities expected by an urban population. Progress in the provision of housing, water supplies and sewerage is being maintained, and any slowness in this can be attributed to the magnitude of some of these schemes.

All members of the public health staff worked hard throughout the year, and special tribute must be paid to the Senior Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. J. J. Chapman, who has served the Council faithfully for so many years.

May I take this opportunity of acknowledging my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their support during the year.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. A. COLLINS.

Medical Officer of Health.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

A total of 547 notifications of infectious diseases was received in the year compared with 165 for the previous year. The increase is entirely accounted for by the epidemic of measles. The general incidence of infectious disease remained low and the number of admissions to the isolation hospital was only 11, which may be compared with an average admission rate of 36 cases per annum during the previous ten years.

Measles

There were 425 notifications of measles compared with three in 1954 and 688 in 1953. The epidemic had its peak in May and June and was finished by the end of the summer.

Whooping Cough

There were only 25 cases of whooping cough compared with 67 in the previous year. This is the lowest number for the last ten years. It is possible that immunisation is already causing a reduction in the incidence of this disease.

Scarlet Fever

This disease retained the relatively benign nature that it has exhibited during recent years. There were only 22 notifications compared with 29 in the previous year. In view of the fact that the infecting organism may produce other common conditions such as streptococcal sore throat, which is not notifiable, it is questionable whether notification of scarlet fever serves any useful purpose. There is, however, always the possibility that the disease might once again assume the more severe form that it had in the past.

Diphtheria

There were no cases of diphtheria in the year. During the last eight years there has been only one case in this district and that was an imported case.

Acute Poliomyelitis

There were two cases of paralytic poliomyelitis and two cases of non-paralytic poliomyelitis.

Two girls from Selmeston, aged 6 and 8 years respectively, were admitted to the Foredown Isolation Hospital in October and considered to be cases of non-paralytic poliomyelitis. They

had both attended the same school just outside the district. They were both mild cases and made a complete recovery. Another girl from Selmeston, aged 9 years, was also admitted to the Eastbourne Isolation Hospital for observation but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

In November a man, aged 25 years, from Warbleton, was admitted to the Eastbourne Isolation Hospital with paralytic poliomyelitis; he died a week after admission. This death is not attributable to this district as he normally resided outside and only returned to his home in Warbleton when taken ill.

In December a boy from Hailsham, aged $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, was admitted to the Eastbourne Isolation Hospital with paralytic poliomyelitis. He made a slow recovery with some residual paralysis of his leg.

Encephalitis

In July a boy, aged seven months, died of post-vaccinal encephalomyelitis ten days after vaccination. This is a very rare complication of normal vaccination which is unavoidable.

The other notified case of encephalitis was a boy aged 15 years; this was a very mild case which was treated at home and the cause was unknown.

Typhoid Fever

There were two cases of typhoid fever at Hellingly Mental Hospital. In both cases the type of typhoid bacillus isolated was of the same Phage type as that which was found in the 1951 epidemic. Experience at Hellingly Hospital has long shown the frequently intermitting nature of the carrier state and it is possible for a carrier to go for long periods without excreting the typhoid bacillus. Of interest is the fact that at least twelve specimens had been taken from the first of these patients following the 1951 epidemic, all of which had been negative.

Early detection of these two cases and the policy of using prophylactic T.A.B. inoculations no doubt helped to prevent the occurrence of an epidemic situation.

Dysentery

There were 16 cases of dysentery among the patients of Hellingly Mental Hospital, most of these occurring in the early months of the year. The infective organism in all cases was *Shigella flexner* X which had been the cause of previous outbreaks. Intense laboratory investigations are made to detect carriers in

the affected wards, and all patients known to have had the disease in the past are tested at monthly intervals. Despite this, however, the intermittent nature of the carrier state seems to provide hidden foci of infection from which new cases arise. Under modern treatment with new drugs the disease is comparatively mild and is not the scourge it was in the past.

Food Poisoning

There were nine cases of food poisoning in the year, five being caused by infection with *Clostridium welchii* and four by *Salmonella typhi-murium*.

The outbreak due to *Clostridium welchii*, which also affected some nine other persons outside this Rural District, is a typical example of this type of food poisoning. At about 1.30 p.m. on 3rd November three families shared their mid-day meal, which consisted of steak and kidney pie and queens pudding. During the night, about twelve to sixteen hours afterwards, all those who had had the meal were taken ill. Remains of the meal, and specimens from the patients, were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton, for examination.

The laboratory reported that a heat resistant strain of *Clostridium welchii* was isolated from each of the patients, and that a strain of *Clostridium welchii* morphologically and culturally similar was isolated from the steak and kidney pie.

Food poisoning of this type can be prevented by the rapid cooling followed by refrigeration of all cooked meat preparations.

Three of the cases of infection with *Salmonella typhi-murium* were discovered on investigating the families connected with a farm where two calves were suspected to have died of *Salmonella* infection in November.

Of fifteen persons examined, a cowman and his wife, and a little boy aged $4\frac{1}{2}$ years in another family, were found to be carriers of *Salmonella typhi-murium*. The cowman and his wife had had no symptoms and the cowman had been looking after the ill calves. The little boy had had a 'tummy upset' about ten days before but by then was quite free from symptoms.

Samples of milk powder which had been used for feeding the calves were also examined and from one of these *Salmonella typhi-murium* was isolated, but as this sample came from the end of a sack, it was not possible to state whether this sack had originally been infected or had become infected during its use on the farm.

The other case of Salmonella infection in June was a boy aged 6 years from Hellingly. As is usual in single infections, it was not possible to determine the source of infection.

VACCINATION RECORDS RECEIVED

1954	Vaccinations 280	Re-vaccinations 129	Total 409
1955	Vaccinations 256	Re-vaccinations 109	Total 365

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Under the National Health Service Act the County Council is responsible for the administration of the immunisation services and the County Medical Officer has delegated the duties in connection with local arrangements to your Medical Officer of Health.

The success of the diphtheria immunisation campaign in this country as a whole is proved by examining the incidence of diphtheria, which has fallen from a yearly average of 58,000 cases with 2,800 deaths in 1930-39 to 173 cases with nine deaths in 1954. In this district during the last eight years there has been only one case, whereas in the eight years from 1933-40 there were 61 cases with four deaths. The numbers of inoculations are as follows :—

1953	Complete Course 357	Refresher Doses 958
1954	Complete Course 474	Refresher Doses 953
1955	Complete Course 380	Refresher Doses 720

The scheme, which started in April 1954 whereby parents have been given the option of having combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation instead of simple diphtheria immunisation, continued to be popular, and in fact 87 per cent. of the complete courses given were for the combined diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation.

I have personally conducted frequent clinics at Hailsham, Heathfield and Polegate, and occasional clinics at Herstmonceux, Willingdon, Pevensey, Eastdean, Chiddingly, Punnetts Town, Bodle Street Green, Arlington, Broad Oak, Vines Cross, Hellingly, Ninfield, Waldron, Hankham, East Hoathly, Cross-in-Hand and Maynards Green.

The annual return for 1955 was on the same lines as for the two previous years, showing separate figures for the children inoculated during the last five years and for children last

inoculated more than five years ago, whether by primary or refresher inoculations, with no distinction between children who received the combined whooping cough and diphtheria course of injections. The immunity index is the number of children immunised during the last five years expressed as a percentage of my estimated mid-year child population and although the index for this district is considered to be quite satisfactory, it is essential that all parents should be continually reminded of the necessity of protecting their children by diphtheria immunisation. Every parent receives a circular to this effect from the health department when their child is three months old. At routine medical inspections the parents are personally reminded of the necessity of boosting doses. The district nurses also do good work in making popular the immunisation campaign.

Age at 31.12.55, i.e. Born in Year	Under 1 1955	1—4 1951—1954	5—9 1946—1950	10—14 1941—1945	Under 15 Total
Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in period 1951—1955	192	1,195	2,025	1,348	4,760
Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in period 1941—1950	—	—	518	1,154	1,672
Estimated mid-year child population	410	1,890	5,310		7,610
Immunity Index	46·8%	63·2%	63·5%		62·5%

National Assistance Acts 1948 and 1951

Although several cases of aged or infirm persons living under insanitary circumstances have been investigated or kept under observation, it has been possible in all cases to avoid formal action under the above Acts.

Vital Statistics

The death rate for the district for the last seven years is as follows :—

	<i>Crude Death Rate</i>	<i>Comparability Factor</i>	<i>Corrected Death Rate</i>
1949	12·3 per thousand	0·74	9·1 per thousand
1950	13·4 per thousand	0·74	9·9 per thousand
1951	13·2 per thousand	0·73	9·6 per thousand
1952	12·5 per thousand	0·73	9·1 per thousand
1953	16·5 per thousand	0·73	12·1 per thousand
1954	16·3 per thousand	0·71	11·6 per thousand
1955	16·0 per thousand	0·71	11·4 per thousand

As mentioned in previous reports, the sudden rise occurring in 1953 is a statistical fallacy caused by attributing to this district all deaths at Hellingly Mental Hospital, whereas ninety per cent. of these should be regarded as outward transfers to the districts in which they resided.

In 1955 there were 152 deaths at Hellingly Hospital, of which about 136 should be regarded as outward transfers. Making similar corrections for the last two years, the comparable death rate would be as follows. It is clear that these figures are more in accordance with the trend of past years.

	<i>Crude Death Rate</i>	<i>Comparability Factor</i>	<i>Corrected Death Rate</i>
1953	13·1 per thousand	0·73	9·5 per thousand
1954	13·5 per thousand	0·71	9·6 per thousand
1955	12·3 per thousand	0·71	8·8 per thousand

The corrected birth rate is 12·9 per thousand compared with 15·0 for the whole of England and Wales.

The infant mortality rate is 17·7 per thousand registered live births, which is very satisfactory compared with a record low infant mortality rate of 24·9 for the whole of England and Wales.

STATISTICS

Area in Acres	..	..	..	94,668
Census Population (1951)	..	..	..	36,916
Population estimated to middle year	..	..	..	37,200
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	12,314
Rateable Value	..	..	..	£334,932
Sum represented by Penny Rate	..	..	..	£1,325 5s. 8d.
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (not corrected)				10·6

Birth Rate per 1,000 population (corrected) ..	12·9
Deaths under one year per 1,000 Registered Live Births	17·7
Total Deaths per 1,000 (not corrected) ..	16·0
Total Deaths per 1,000 (corrected)	11·4
Senile mortality as percentage of Total Deaths (65 and over)	77·8

Births

Legitimate : Total 381	Males 196	Females 185
Illegitimate : Total 15	Males 8	Females 7

Stillbirths

Legitimate : Total 5	Males 4	Females 1
Illegitimate : Total 2	Males 1	Females 1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age : Total 7	Males 5	Females 2

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>
Hailsham Rural	12·9	17·7	11·4
England and Wales ..	15·0	24·9	11·7

CAUSES OF DEATH

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	1	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	3
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	17	28
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	2

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
16. Diabetes	4	2
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system ..	34	48
18. Coronary disease, angina ..	37	42
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	5	5
20. Other heart disease	61	94
21. Other circulatory disease ..	7	13
22. Influenza	2	1
23. Pneumonia	17	28
24. Bronchitis	6	3
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	4	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	1	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ..	3	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate ..	5	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ..	2	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	25	28
33. Motor vehicle accidents ..	4	—
34. All other accidents	9	6
35. Suicide	2	3
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	—	—
	<hr/> 269	<hr/> 326

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health (part-time), also School Medical Officer for East Sussex County Council	Dr. L. A. Collins, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.M., D.P.H.
Senior Sanitary and Meat and Food Inspector	E. J. J. Chapman, F.G.S., Cert.R.S.I.
Additional Sanitary Inspectors ..	M. F. Warman, Cert.S.I.B. L. E. Scott, Cert.S.I.B. R. R. Creasey, Cert.S.I.B.
Sanitary Assistant and Rodent Operator	J. F. Stanford
Rodent Operator	R. Cousins
Clerical Assistants	R. S. Oak Mrs. M. O. Stevens Miss R. M. Savage

Cases of Infectious Diseases in Age Groups

Notifiable Diseases	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	5-9 yrs.	10-14 yrs.	15-24 yrs.	25 yrs. & over	Total
Scarlet Fever ..	—	—	3	15	1	2	1	22
Whooping Cough Acute	1	7	6	11	—	—	—	25
Poliomyelitis	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	4
Measles ..	6	51	90	250	14	4	10	425
Pneumonia ..	—	1	1	2	2	3	19	28
Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	16
Encephalitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Typhoid ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Erysipelas ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	8	9
Food Poisoning	—	—	2	2	2	—	3	9
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	5

Cases Notified or Admitted to Isolation Hospital and Total Deaths

Disease	Total Notified	Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	22	4	—
Whooping Cough ..	25	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	4	4	1
Measles ..	425	1	—
Pneumonia ..	28	1	—
Dysentery ..	16	—	—
Encephalitis ..	2	—	1
Typhoid ..	2	—	—
Erysipelas ..	9	—	—
Food Poisoning ..	9	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	5	—	—
Other Observation Cases	—	1	—

Number of Cases Removed to Isolation Hospital Each Month

Disease			January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Scarlet Fever	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Observation Cases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

Tuberculosis

Age Period			New Cases				Deaths			
			Res- piratory		Non-Res- piratory		Res- piratory		Non-Res- piratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-4 years . .	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-14 years	..	..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-24 years	..	..	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-34 years	..	..	3	4	-	1	-	-	-	-
35-44 years	..	..	2	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
45-54 years	..	..	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
55-64 years	..	..	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	..	..	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	..	..	16	17	3	3	-	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

Water supplied by the three Statutory Water Undertakers has been shown by frequent chemical and bacteriological analyses to have been consistently satisfactory throughout the year. The suppliers are :—

In the north—The Heathfield and District Water Company.

In the south and centre—The Eastbourne Waterworks Company.

In the east—The Bexhill Corporation.

In the north-west area natural supplies from wells and springs are precarious, with poor yields and indifferent quality. This is due to the difficult geological formation of the huge weald anticline, which roughly has its base in Reading Beds in the north and Chalk in the south.

The provision of a main supply to the western and north-western Parishes has been the subject of negotiations and at the end of the year substantial progress had been made. This would convey a piped supply to the Parishes of Alciston, Arlington, Berwick, Chalvington, Chiddingly, Lullington, East Hoathly, Hellingly, Laughton, Ripe and Selmeston.

An emergency water service has been operating for some years under which necessitous householders may obtain a supply of main water by tanker in 400 or 800 gallon loads, and during the year 771,400 gallons were supplied by this means. The provision of a main supply to the north-western Parishes will largely obviate the need for this emergency service.

Extension of Mains

The following is a summary of extensions carried out by the Undertakers in their respective areas within the year :—

Bexhill Corporation. At the request of the Council the Corporation extended a main at Hooe to the Grove area, a part of the Parish previously supplied from a private source and mains which were failing rapidly.

Eastbourne Waterworks Company. This Company laid a total of 2 miles 311 yards in the Parishes of Eastdean, Hailsham, Hellingly, Pevensey (Pevensey Bay area only), Polegate, Westham and Willingdon. The mains ranged from 2 in. to 5 in.

Heathfield and District Water Company. No extensions were carried out by this Company but there are proposals under consideration for the supply of water to Three Cups and Rushlake

Green by means of an extension of the Dallington Water Scheme proposed by the Battle Rural District Council.

Distribution of Supplies. The following table details the distribution of piped supplies showing that approximately 88·4 per cent. of the population is provided with main water.

Parish	Estimated Population Supplied by Public or Private Main	No. of Houses Supplied by Public Main	By Stand- Pipe	By Private Main
Alciston ..	124	—	—	37
Alfriston ..	645	203	10	—
Arlington ..	205	44	25	—
Berwick ..	87	—	—	30
Chalvington ..	—	—	—	—
Chiddingly ..	—	—	—	—
Eastdean ..	783	254	—	—
East Hoathly ..	132	44	—	—
Folkington ..	32	9	—	—
Friston ..	414	138	—	—
Hailsham ..	5,403	1,800	—	—
Heathfield ..	2,932	944	—	—
Hellingly ..	2,706	418	—	—
Herstmonceux ..	1,267	409	10	—
Hooe ..	233	50	—	23
Horam ..	1,242	414	—	—
Jevington ..	141	10	37	—
Laughton ..	—	—	—	—
Litlington ..	97	—	—	37
Lullington ..	19	4	—	2
Ninfield ..	996	341	—	—
Pevensey ..	2,400	800	—	—
Polegate ..	4,383	1,461	—	—
Ripe ..	—	—	—	—
Selmeston ..	3	—	—	1
Waldron ..	2,413	778	—	—
Warbleton ..	241	70	—	—
Wartling ..	391	127	—	—
Westdean ..	92	22	7	—
Westham ..	1,876	615	10	—
Willingdon ..	3,440	1,150	—	—
Wilmington ..	177	63	—	—
Total ..	32,874	10,168	99	130

Drainage and Sewerage

Main drainage is provided for the built-up areas of the Parishes of Hailsham, Heathfield, Horam, Herstmonceux, Polegate, Willingdon, Pevensey and Westham.

The phenomenal increase in population consequent upon new building, especially in the coastal region, has far exceeded all calculations for sewers and purification works, from which it follows that several schemes are ear-marked as being overdue for extensions and improvements.

Preparations have been undertaken for the extension of works in connection with the outfall from the Westham and Pevensey scheme, which will include a considerable lengthening of the sea outfall sewer. Detailed working drawings are in course of preparation for the proposed combined sewage works for Polegate and Willingdon. Surveys have been carried out of the existing drains and sewers in connection with the Alfriston Sewerage Scheme.

The employment by the Council of a direct labour gang, who also carry out maintenance and repairs, has proved to be invaluable and economical. Among the minor works of redrainage carried out by this gang are the following :—

1. Sewer extension—Clement Estate, Polegate.
2. Sewer extension—Buckwell Hill, Herstmonceux.
3. New concrete headwall at outfall from Hailsham Sewage Works.

Public Cleansing—House Refuse Removal

In spite of the scattered character of some of the rural Parishes, the Council operate a scheme of collection of house refuse for the whole area. This is done by a fleet of six Dennis dustless loaders with an outside staff of twenty-six men. Visits are paid to the built-up areas once a week and to the more rural parts once a fortnight, and notwithstanding the increasing calls for expansion by reason of new houses, this arrangement has met the needs of the district reasonably well. Apart from the new buildings a significant increase arises from individual houses in coastal areas and this suggests the presence of larger households and the deposition of substances formerly salvaged. The rapid increase in house building in the southern part of the area in particular is likely, however, to necessitate a review or reorganisation of the schemes in the near future.

Refuse Disposal

The disposal of house refuse is so arranged as to obviate extravagant haulage by groups of vehicles depositing at one or more of the tips, according to the vicinity in which they collect. Every effort is made to follow the 'controlled' principles but owing to lack of suitable soil covering, incineration is partly practised where this will permit.

A Chaseside mechanical excavator operates on the tips in turn and this consolidates the refuse and transports soil excavated for covering. Its use has considerably extended the life of each tip and its use as a consolidator-bulldozer has been invaluable.

Maintenance Depot

The maintenance of a fleet of vehicles, fuelling and servicing has been carried out at Leap Cross under the care of a competent foreman-mechanic, and although this depot is small and is used in part as a workshop, in part as a store, and in part as a garage for three vehicles, it has also been used for the complete overhaul of vehicles.

In view of the urgent need of larger premises and the great handicap which its overcrowded state presents, it is hoped that progress will soon be made towards the provision of a central depot, offices, stores and an increased number of garages, when in addition to better working space, real economies may also be effected by better facilities for maintenance.

District Salvage Scheme

In conformity with official recommendations and with a view to salvaging such raw materials as were marketable, and could be handled economically by our existing refuse collection staff, a scheme has been operating with success for some years and receipts from the sale of produce from time to time has been substantial. Whilst a fairly constant demand has prevailed for ferrous and non-ferrous substances, the erratic demand for paper and cardboard has been disappointing. Since it has not been possible to dispose of all we could retrieve and bale, and storage space is unavailable, much has had to be destroyed, for it would have been uneconomic to bale at the prices offered by the mills.

Cesspool Cleansing

The removal of cesspool contents in all parts of the district, including those areas within drained Parishes where sewers are inaccessible to premises, is covered by three Dennis vacuum

vehicles which carry out the work with a minimum of nuisance and discharge their contents on agricultural or tillable land, woodland or pasture by request. In the three northern Parishes of Heathfield, Horam and Waldron the cost of this service continues to be partly met out of special rates engaging one vehicle whole-time and another half-time. The remainder of the district almost completely occupies the services of the second and third vehicles. The following is a summary of the work carried out.

	<i>Cesspools</i>	<i>Loads</i>
District Scheme	1,676	3,233
Heathfield, Horam and Waldron Scheme	1,596	2,435

Removal of Night Soil

This primitive and unpleasant system is still operated in the village of Alfriston. Some progress has been made by the earmarking of land for outfall works and by the survey of existing drains and sewers and, when financial conditions permit, it is hoped that redrainage of the village will remove the necessity of this insanitary practice.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

By reason of the restricted duties of the Local Authority in respect of mechanical factories, the visits to the premises controlled by these Acts constitute, in the main, a monotonous inspection of sanitary conveniences, though a growth of factory canteens is noted, and the welfare of the workers is an increasing concern of the managements.

The greatest problem in connection with factories during the year under review has been nuisance from smoke and it is regretted that permanent improvement is not yet apparent.

Shops Act 1950 and Food and Drugs Act 1938

The following table shows the number of inspections made of food premises in the area. The standard of hygiene is generally quite good and reference to the report on unsound foodstuffs condemned will show that there has not been cause for much action in this connection.

Mobile shops continue to function with great activity, and the sale of ice-cream and frozen foods is ever increasing.

Summary of Inspections of Food Premises

	<i>Number in District</i>	<i>Total Number of Inspections made</i>
Bakehouses	21	80
Bakers' Shops	18	17
Butchers' Shops	33	467
Cafés and Snack Bars	80	159
Fish Shops	16	129
Greengrocers	17	67
Grocers and General Stores	124	352
Hawkers	26	25
Ice-Cream Sellers	104	132
(Plus 41 catering establishments registered)		
Public Houses and Guest Houses	108	229
	<hr/> 547	<hr/> 1,657

Housing

The year was marked by unusual activity in connection with a review of the properties scheduled as Category V dwellings under the Rural Housing Survey, and the preparation of the Five Year Programme.

In consequence of the progress in reconditioning of properties by the owners, twenty-four houses originally included in the list had been removed, twenty-one through restoration or conversion, and three by demolition, and details were submitted of thirty-four houses recommended to be dealt with under slum clearance by closure or demolition within the first year of the five-year period. In a return to the Ministry a total of 180 houses were considered to be suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, during the five-year period.

The erection of Council houses had progressed, and the problem of selection of suitable tenants has been boldly and promptly handled by the Selection of Tenants Sub-Committee, who have again deserved great praise for the care, patience and understanding way in which they have so successfully carried out their difficult task, which has included exchanges and the accommodation of several problem families. Notwithstanding this progress, there are still about 600 applicants on the list for Council houses.

The Council considered eighty-nine applications for improvement grants, and of this number seventy-one were granted, fourteen refused, three withdrawn, and one adjourned.

Little use was made of the right to apply for Certificates of Disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Four Certificates were applied for and granted. None was cancelled during the year.

HOUSING STATISTICS

Number of houses demolished during year as a result of formal or informal procedure	4
Number of houses closed in pursuance of an Undertaking under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and still in force	4
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during year as a result of informal action under Public Health and Housing Acts	153
Number of houses made fit after service of formal Notices under the Housing Act, 1936	7
Number of houses made fit after service of formal Notices under the Public Health Acts	1

Milk and Dairies

By an Order in Parliament on 21st March the area became a Specified Area in which only milksold under approved designations may be retailed. The effect of this order was that a number of producers with non-tuberculin-tested cows either gave up retailing milk altogether or arranged to draw their supplies from pasteurising plants in nearby areas, thus at the end of the year there were only eight retailer producers, but distributors retailing milk in the area numbered thirty-five.

The results of consumer samples sent for examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Brighton are summarised below.

BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION	<i>No. of Samples</i>
Infected with <i>M. tuberculosis</i>	Nil
Infected with <i>Brucella abortus</i>	6
Infected with <i>Brucella Melitensis</i>	Nil
Satisfactory	47
No result—guinea pig died	2
	<hr/> 55

METHYLENE BLUE TEST

		<i>Ungraded</i>	<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Pasteurised</i>
Samples taken ..	..	4	46	7
Satisfactory ..	..	4	37	7
Unsatisfactory ..	..	Nil	9	Nil

Reports on samples taken by other local authorities of milk produced in this area were received and are summarised below.

BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION

			<i>No. of Samples</i>
Infected with <i>M. tuberculosis</i> ..	..	..	10
Infected with <i>Brucella abortus</i> ..	..	..	21
Infected with <i>Brucella Melitensis</i>	..	..	1
			—
			32
			—

METHYLENE BLUE TEST

Samples taken ..	..	..	..	5
Satisfactory ..	..	..	..	1
Unsatisfactory ..	..	..	..	4

Eight cows were slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order from herds producing infected milk.

Farmers whose herds have produced milk infected with *Brucella abortus* have continued to take advantage of the department's offer to help isolate the offending cow or cows. In all, a total of 575 quarter and 57 cow samples were sent for examination.

One cow was slaughtered under the *Brucella Melitensis* Order, 1940. No case of undulant fever in man was brought to my notice during the year.

From a farm, where it was suspected that two calves had died of a *Salmonella* infection, samples were submitted from thirty-nine cows. *Salmonella* was not isolated from any of these cows although, as previously stated in this report, three persons among the families of farm workers were found to be excreting *Salmonella typhi-murium*, and this organism was also isolated from the milk powder which had been used for feeding the calves.

I am glad to record that the friendly co-operation of the local veterinary surgeons and the department continued throughout the year.

Food Inspections

The free market in meat having been open for some five months in 1954, the butchers settled down to a fairly regular routine of killing, which although requiring the attendance of meat inspectors after office hours did not become the problem it has been in many other areas. The meat inspectors continue to certify pigs under the Government Fatstock Guarantee Scheme—308 certificates were issued involving 748 pigs.

One application for the renewal of a licence to use as a slaughterhouse, premises which had not been so used for many years, was refused by the Council during the year. At the end of the year the position under the Slaughterhouse Act, 1954, was :—

Premises licensed to 31st July, 1959	..	7
Premises licensed for one year	..	3

None of these premises is licensed for the slaughter of horses. There is one knackers' yard licensed annually under Section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and the premises are specifically licensed for the slaughter of horses.

The butchers and their employees co-operate extremely well with the department and as a result conditions at the slaughterhouses continue to improve without the need for formal action. The number of licensed slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, has increased by two to forty-eight.

Regular visits are made to a weekly market where large quantities of dead poultry are exposed for sale and also to a poultry packing station which dealt with over 118,000 birds during the year.

Food found to be unfit for human consumption is disposed of by release to approved by-product manufacturers for processing for purposes other than human consumption or by burial on the Council's refuse tips.

No formal action was necessary under the Clean Food Bye-laws, although the importance of hygiene in food production is constantly stressed during visits to food premises. Very few complaints were received about food products but among other alleged articles found in food were included the following :—“parts of a scrubbing brush,” actually tufts of pighair in a pork pie, “flies” in bread which were small portions of grease from the dough mixers, and mites (*Tyroglyphus Farinae*) in milk powder. In each case the manufacturers were informed and improvement effected.

Summary of Meat Found Unfit for Human Consumption

Total number of animals inspected ..	5,019
(181 Bullocks, 173 Cows, 579 Heifers, 326 Calves, 1,112 Sheep, 7 Goats and 2,641 Pigs)	
Estimated total weight of carcasses inspected ..	996,984 lbs.
Total weight of unsound meat withheld ..	9,916½ lbs.
Included with the unsound meat withheld were 28 complete carcasses. (7 Sheep, 3 Cows, 2 Heifers, 11 Pigs and 5 Calves)	
Total number of unsound poultry withheld	524
(229 Hens, 208 Chicken, 63 Cocks, 21 Ducks and 3 Turkeys)	
Total weight of unsound poultry withheld ..	2,158 lbs.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or in Part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep, Lambs & Goats	Pigs	Horses
No. killed ..	760	173	358	1,334	2,641	—
No. inspected ..	760	173	326	1,121	2,641	—
<i>All diseases, except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcases condemned ..	1	1	5	7	11	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	107	29	—	25	112	—
Per cent. of No. i n s p e c t e d affected with disease other than tubercu- losis & cysticerci	14·2	17·3	1·5	2·9	4·7	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcases condemned ..	1	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	42	22	—	—	20	—
Per cent. of No. i n s p e c t e d affected with tuberculosis ..	5·7	13·9	—	—	0·8	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ..	2	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases sub- mitted to treat- ment by re- frigeration ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

MISCELLANEOUS UNSOUND FOOD DEALT WITH BY THIS DEPARTMENT

<i>Foodstuff</i>	<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Cooked and Tinned Meats	232 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tinned Vegetables	22 $\frac{3}{4}$
Tinned Milk	15
Tinned Fruit	61 $\frac{1}{4}$
Fish	28
Tinned Soup	4
1 Packet Semolina	1
1 Packet Bournvita	$\frac{1}{4}$
	<hr/> 364 $\frac{3}{4}$ <hr/>

RODENT CONTROL

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, entrusted to the Council the duty of ensuring, as far as practicable, that land and premises are kept free from rats and mice, and this has been energetically pursued within the capacity of our staff, and has included some control of agricultural premises, for even though disinfestation is not generally carried out by our staff on such premises, the Council are now charged with the duty of ensuring that the necessary disinfestations are carried out thereon.

In view of the negative results following last year's test-baiting of sewers, it was not repeated in 1955. During the year 117 contracts were undertaken by the Agricultural Executive Committee on agricultural and horticultural farms and holdings.

It is gratifying to report that close co-operation exists between the officers of the Agricultural Executive Committee and this department.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS

Housing Acts	593
Housing Acts Reinspections	268
Complaints	157
Public Health Nuisances	305
Public Health Nuisances Reinspections	121
Pollution of Watercourses	153
Keeping of Animals, Birds, etc.	42
Offensive Accumulations	53
Drains and Sewers Inspected	214
Drainage Tested	47
Closet Accommodation	77
Verminous Premises dealt with	42
Infectious Diseases	13
Rooms Disinfected	13
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	301
Rats and Mice Destruction	695
Markets	91
Public Cleansing	1,127
Salvage	196
Water Sources examined, protected and/or corrected.	
Investigations <i>re</i> sources and applications for mains	712
Water Analyses :	
Chemical—	
Satisfactory .. 1	Unsatisfactory .. 5
Biological—	
Satisfactory .. 31	Unsatisfactory .. 44
Milk and Dairies	155
Slaughterhouses	1,281
Meat Shops, Fish and Fruit Shops, etc.	1,057
Catering Establishments	388
Ice-Cream Shops	132
Knackers' Yards	20
Bakehouses	99
Factories, Workshops, etc.	367
Laundries	1
Housing Applicants and Selection of Tenants Sub-	
Committee	748
Smoke Observations and Visits	1
Cesspool Emptying	95
Swimming Pools	2
Improvement Grants	31
Poultry Packing Stations	85
Miscellaneous	277
	<u>10,040</u>

